

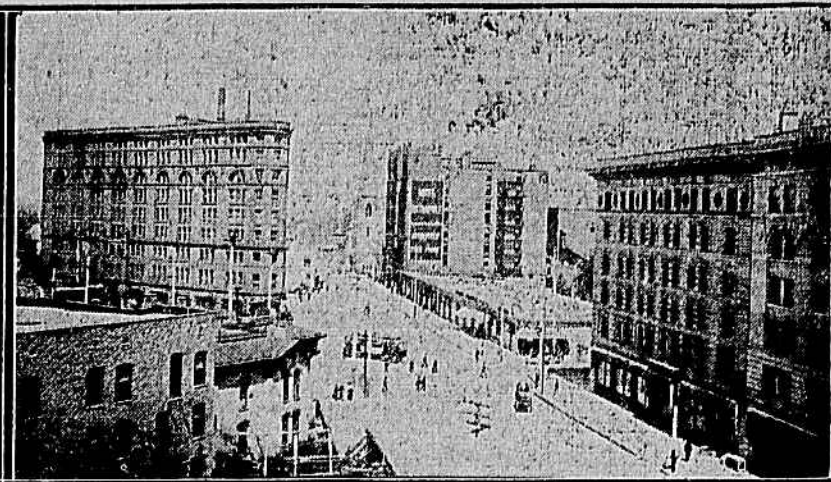
## WHERE DEMOCRATS OF UNITED STATES WILL GATHER FOR GREAT CONVENTION IN JULY



COLORADO STATE CAPITOL AT DENVER.



AUDITORIUM, WHERE CONVENTION WILL BE HELD.



THREE OF DENVER'S LEADING HOTELS.

BODY-GRABBERS  
RUINING TRADE  
OF MERCHANTS

Latter Appeal for Help and Police Take Matter Up--New Ordinance Necessary.

## Call for Help

As merchants of Richmond are asking the assistance of The Times-Dispatch to break up body-grabbing on lower Main Street.

JOSEPH HUTZLER,  
H. HYNES,  
SIMON CROWELL,  
JOHNSTON BROS.,  
M. WEINFELD,  
POWELL BROS.,  
JACOB LEWIS & SON,  
DAVIS HOTEL,  
J. Lee Davis, Prop.,  
H. SINSHEIMER,  
SAM'L STEINER & BRO.,  
B. SAMUELS,  
J. R. GOODE & SON.

(It was stated that other names also would have been signed to this petition had there been more time in which to get their signatures.)

Complaining that their trade has been jeopardized and in some cases almost ruined by a system of body-grabbing in operation on Main Street, between Fifteenth and Seventeenth, and also on Seventeenth Street, several merchants in this section have petitioned the police authorities and have written to the Times-Dispatch to help break up the practice.

Most of the stores in this district are clothing or shoe houses, or a combination of both, and competition is so keen that no merchant dares let a possible customer pass by his door without inviting or dragging him in. Smiling blandly with an air of indifference, the body-grabber--for that is what he is called--stands just outside the door of his shop or parades up and down, crying his wares to every countryman or gullible person who comes along, and, if that be not sufficient to induce him to buy, promptly pulls him in, and in hoarse, stentorian tones, almost commands him to purchase before he leaves.

Handsome suits at \$4.98, so much better than can be got anywhere else in Richmond, or the world for that matter, are exhibited with great show of pride, and before the unwilling customer is aware of what's being done he has his coat off and the merchant is fitting on the \$4.98. Vain explanation as to why he can sell such a handsome suit at such a ridiculous price is given by the merchant; he throws up his hands in shocked righteousness at the mere suggestion of profit, and declares that the suit fits "like de paper on de wall." Hastily the suit is wrapped up, money changes hands, and if he can be induced to buy no more the purchaser is bundled out to fall victim to the next grabber, who has become wildly jealous of the merchant.

Thus the victim is knocked about, pulled in and out, despoiled of his savings and sent home with all sorts of impossible purchases. At home the wares are displayed to the loving wife and expectant children, and hopeful looks change to dark dismay as the \$4.98's are rolled out on the floor.

## Saturday the Great Day.

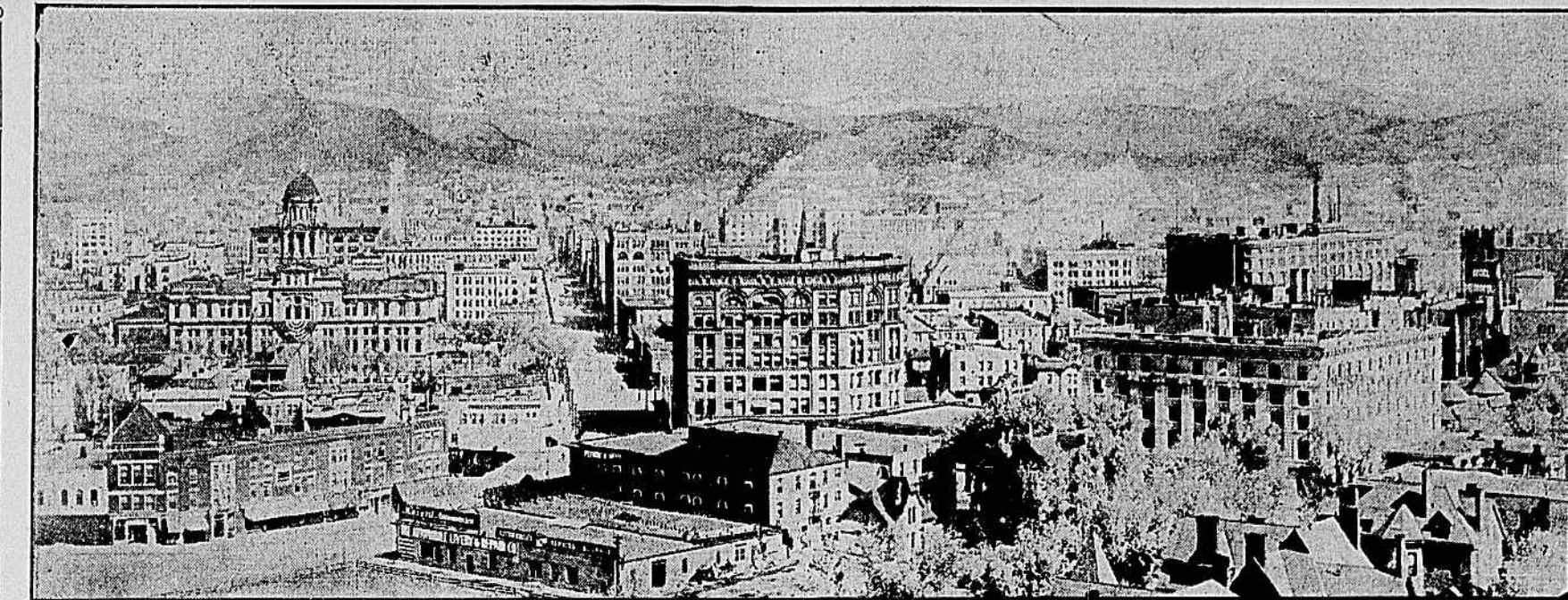
Saturday is the great day for the body-grabbers, and sometimes they reap a rich harvest from those who come to make their weekly purchases. Of late the practice has become so much worse that several merchants decided to see if they could not have it stopped. Some of them declare that their trade has been practically ruined, particularly those midway of the blocks. These saw customers so infrequently because merchants on the two ends of the block had pulled everybody in and made them buy, willy-nilly, before they could go farther. The unfortunate ones complain bitterly, saying that they would either have to retire from business or take some stringent measure to protect themselves. Hence the petition to the police and the appeal to this paper.

Most of them admit, however, that they have resorted to body-grabbing themselves, declaring that they were forced to it in order to protect themselves, self-preservation being the first law of nature.

They would be only too willing to stop, however, if their neighbors may be induced to do the same.

Since the petition to the Police Department the merchants on Main Street have been visited by the officers and ordered to do business only in the legitimate way. But on Seventeenth Street the practice still continues, and any one who happened to stand on the corner of Seventeenth and Main Streets on Saturday afternoon noticed a well-dressed young man loitering just without a clothing store, grabbing at everybody who came within his reach. He seemed to be on good terms with all. He slapped them on the back or chucked them under the chin; spoke to them pleasantly and asked them to go in to buy. He bowed and scraped and talked as if he were performing the most pleasant duty in the world.

Body-snatching is punishable by a small fine, being prohibited by a city ordinance. The merchants now want a heavier fine, such as is imposed in Norfolk, where the sum is \$50 for the first offense, and heavier for every offense thereafter.



PANORAMIC VIEW OF DENVER SHOWING ROCKY MOUNT IN BACKGROUND.

TRESTLE COLLAPSED;  
ENGINEER KILLED

Married a few months ago to Miss Kate Puller, one of the most popular and accomplished young women of Richmond, Samuel Neisler, engineer on the Seaboard Air Line, was killed early Saturday morning when his train crashed through a trestle near Atlanta. The body will be brought to Richmond, arriving here at 9:10 o'clock this morning.

Details of the accident, which occurred about 5 A. M., are not known here except that the bridge gave way and the engineer was caught under his engine and fatally injured. He was taken to a hospital at Atlanta, but died at 1:30 P. M., before his wife, who was at Abbeville, S. C., could reach him. His brother-in-law, Mr. James Puller, of Atlanta, was with him.

Mr. Neisler was thirty-four years old. He had been married only a little over four months. His wife, who is an accomplished elocutionist, is well known in Richmond. He is survived also by his father, Mr. S. J. Neisler, of Charlotte, N. C.; a brother, Mr. Thomas Neisler, of Manchester, Va., and three sisters--Mrs. E. T. Dwyer, of Charlotte, N. C.; Mrs. La Moine, of

GREASES WILL  
COST MORE NOW

Trousers Will Probably Be Pressed Per Leg Instead of Per Pair.

Owing to the license tax recently placed on cleaning, pressing and dyeing establishments, prices will soon be considerably advanced on several classes of goods, according to a well-founded report. In fact, a number of the smaller pressing establishments are planning to go out of business, finding it impossible to meet the new conditions.

As usual in cases of high license, however, the larger places, though complaining bitterly of the hardship--meaning the tax--will probably reap a harvest in the end through the reduction in the number of houses and the correspondingly increase in trade for those that stay in business. The raise, if any, will fall on the customer, and before long many a hall room youth will probably be sleeping with his Sunday trousers between the mattresses in order to preserve the immaculate clean and avoid paying by the leg instead of so much per pair, as has been the case heretofore.

What Proprietor Says.

When asked as to probable increase in prices, the head of a large dyeing and cleaning establishment said that the places planned an increase for the present on small articles only, leaving their main prices as heretofore.

"We have to call for the goods and deliver them, and are responsible for loss and damage," said the proprietor. "When the tax goes on, I think our prices for cleaning gloves and pressing trousers will go up, although suits will remain the same, unless there is some rise on elaborate women's tailor suits in delicate shades, which have to be carefully handled, and which require skilled work."

At a pressing club which does the patching and cleaning for a number of young bachelors, the manager stated that he would probably be forced out of business entirely by the large tax unless he advanced the prices. Small colored shops doing a limited pressing and repair business will in many cases be driven out.

Though from extensive inquiries made there seems to be as yet no general agreement among the cleaning and pressing people to fix higher prices, it is evident that after the tax is imposed those who would rival Beau Brummel must pay the price or sponge their clothes at home.

New York, and Mrs. Andrew Shakespeare, of Philadelphia, Pa.

He had been for many years in the employ of the Seaboard, and had won the esteem and confidence of the officials and his fellowworkmen. His home was at Abbeville, S. C., where he was loved and honored by a large circle of friends. He was a member of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and a member of other orders.

The funeral will take place this afternoon at 5 o'clock from the home of his mother-in-law, Mrs. Cornelia Puller, No. 2016 Jefferson Park. Telegrams were received here yesterday from Hon. J. T. Barron, of Columbia, grand commander Knights Templars of South Carolina, announcing that the body would arrive this morning via the Seaboard, and requesting that a special escort of honor be appointed to escort the body from the station and to the cemetery. Eminent Commander D. C. Kennedy, of Richmond Commandery No. 2, Knights Templars, will assist with the instructions. Representatives from Richmond, Randolph Lodge No. 19, A. F. and A. M. will take charge of the body, and the train, and Mr. Neisler will be buried with Masonic honors.

ROGERS TAKES  
LOVING'S PLACE

Ryan's New Manager at Oak Ridge to Assume Charge of Property This Week.

Appointed by Thomas Fortune Ryan to succeed Judge W. G. Loving as manager of his Oak Ridge estate in Nelson county, Walter G. Rogers will take active charge of that handsome and historic property on May 1st. Mr. Rogers has been spending several days in Richmond, making purchases, all of which have been shipped to his new home. He left yesterday for New York to confer with Mr. Ryan before returning to Virginia.

No reason has been given for the retirement of Judge Loving, nor is it known what his future plans are. Mr. Rogers would not discuss that matter. Indeed, he said that he knew nothing of the contemplated change until he was appointed.

Mr. Rogers has spent very little time around Oak Ridge. He is a man of middle age, and has experience which satisfied Mr. Ryan that he would make a capable manager.

Aged Veteran Dies.

Mr. Mike Tenny died at the Soldiers' Home about 10 o'clock last night. He had been ill for a long time, and his strength at last gave way before his many years. He was a familiar figure at the home, and was known for his ready wit.

Reports to the effect that Miller, the baggage thief, had escaped from the penitentiary created great excitement on Broad Street last night, and especially around Murphy's Hotel, where bets have been made by some of the local plungers that the notorious crook will never serve his full term. When the curious ones got busy with the telephone a reporter caught Superintendent Morgan's office over the wire and then came near fainting when a guard said that Miller was still in his cell. The Sunday night romance had been shattered with a word.

The guard denied the story that Miller had slipped from one part of the building to another, giving the authorities an uneasy hour. The reports make it appear that he was caught and sent back to his strong box.

"I have just seen Miller through the iron bars," said the guard. "He did not lose himself in here, and he is not apt to." Word was sent back to the curious one on Broad Street, but they continued to speculate on the chances of Miller's escape. Captain Morgan, however, does not disturb himself about such things. Realizing that he has a desperate character whose outside pals may attempt to rescue him, the superintendent has taken extra precautions. If Miller makes a dash he will get a few backshots; if he be- haves himself he may get out in time and switch a few more trunk checks at small railway stations.

TRAINS COLLIDE;  
CREW NOT HURT

Jumped from Engines Just in Time to Escape Being Killed.

## TRACK BLOCKED ALL DAY

Freight on Southern Hit Yard Engine Head-On Near Manchester Pumphouse.

Running into the yard limits of Manchester at the rate of fifteen miles an hour, Southern Railway freight train No. 74 collided head-on with a shifting engine near the Manchester Pumphouse at 10 o'clock yesterday morning. The crews jumping from the cabs just in time to escape injury or possible death. Four cars were practically destroyed. The locomotives were badly damaged. The wreckage being such that the track was blocked until 7 o'clock last night. The passenger train for Danville, due to leave at 11:15 A. M., was held in the station here until 7:30 o'clock.

Although no statement as to the responsibility for the accident was given out at the office of Division Superintendent Cone, it was said that No. 74 was exceeding its speed limit, apparently trying to make up some of its lost time. Engineer Morrisette had just reached a point near the Pump House when he saw the shifting engine ahead at the same moment. Engineer Robertson, who was preparing to stop to back into a siding, saw the danger. He and Morrisette jumped simultaneously, and the two firemen did the same thing a few seconds before the crash.

Engines Badly Damaged.

The boiler head of the yard engine was smashed. The compact was such that the tender was torn to pieces. The pilot and the pilot beam of the engine pulling No. 74 were broken, the tender telescoping. There was other damage, which can be easily repaired.

Two of the cars, which were completely wrecked, were loaded with packing-house products, and the stuff was hurled in all directions. Engineer Glenn, of 74, and his brakemen were badly jarred, but they escaped without a scratch.

The yard engine was handling a string of ten cars, thirty-five being attached to No. 74. According to railroad men the engineers had equal rights, which is to say that each had to look out for the other.

Aside from the damage, the greatest inconvenience was caused to passengers on the morning train for Danville. They waited at the station all day, expecting to be sent out every moment, many of them being afraid to leave the cars for dinner. The afternoon train for Richmond could not cross the river, but passengers left it and caught the street cars a few blocks away.

REPORTED ESCAPE OF  
MILLER CAUSED STIR

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BRYAN AND PRIMARY  
ARE LEADING ISSUES

## DELEGATES AT LARGE.

John W. Daniel, of Lynchburg.  
Thomas S. Martin, of Albemarle.  
Claude A. Swanson, of Pittsylvania.  
R. Tate Irvine, of Wise; or,  
James Hay, of Madison.

## ELECTORS AT LARGE.

Samuel L. Kelley, of Richmond city.  
Samuel W. Williams, of Wythe.

## BY C. A. BOYCE.

WHEN the State Democratic convention meets in Roanoke in June to send representatives to the national convention at Denver, and to determine such other matters as may properly come before the regularly constituted authority of the party in Virginia at its quadrennial gathering, delegates and electors at large will be chosen as indicated in the summary printed above.

## Daniel's Position.

There are those, of course, who do not want Senator Daniel to go to the convention at Denver, for the reason that though acceptable to the organization in other respects, he has tolerated and reiterated his determination not to be bridled or branded for Bryan in advance, but he will go in any event, and chances are that if the extreme Bryan people insist upon forcing the issue, he will go without instructions. His latest utterance on the subject is that "I have not yet been Bryanized," and coming from such a man as Daniel on the eve of the State convention, the declaration is significant. Democratic people in Virginia know well what it means.

A number of Bryan "bandwagon jumpers" say that if the choice were made squarely before the people of the State between Bryan and Daniel, Bryan would win hands down, but this prediction does not conform with the popular record of the senior Senator, who has never been known to cover before any foe, and who has never met defeat, either in or out of his party. In Virginia, save when he and his followers were overwhelmed by the Readjusters, back in the eighties.

## Will Stand by Daniel.

The Richmond delegation to the Roanoke convention is uninstructed, and though there have been but few public expressions on the part of the members, many of the more prominent among them are known to be on the side of Daniel. If the extreme Bryan advocates undertake to knite the Virginia leader, and deliver him bound into the hands of a pronounced political enemy.

Foremost among these are Mr. W. Walker, Member of Lee Ward; Hon. Samuel L. Kelley of Madison, and Mr. Walter G. Duke, of Henry. It is understood that Mr. Alfred B. Williams and a number of other members of the Richmond delegation, will be found on the Daniel side if there is any alignment.

## Kelley for Daniel for President.

Mr. Kelley is an effective orator, and will probably be made chairman of the Richmond delegation. He had is early political experience as president of the old Foreman Club, which was, in its palmy days, the Tammany Hall of the Richmond city Democracy. He served then with Mr. H. M. Smith, Mr. C. V. Meredith, Captain Alex. Gulson, Mr. W. L. Royall, Colonel Tazewell Elliott, Colonel John Bell Bigler and many others in fighting for party supremacy in Jackson Ward, and was later sent several times to the Virginia Legislature.

Mr. Kelley declares that he is against all instructions at Roanoke, unless they are Daniel instructions--that is to say, he favors instructing the delegation for Daniel for President if the senior Senator shall desire such a course, but he will oppose all other instructions.

Mr. Hill Montague and Mr. Roscoe G. Nelson have been discussed in connection with the position of elector for the Third District, but the mention of these names in the presence of a group of these "from the inside" at Murphy's the other night brought the expected criticism: "They won't do; they don't

speak the language of the tribe." It is not known whom "the tribe" will put up, but it is apparent that it will not be either of these gentlemen, although Mr. Montague's friends will present his name.

A number of prominent Richmond men are mentioned as probable delegates to Denver from the Third District. Some of them are Mr. Charles E. Cooke, of Henrico; Mr. Alfred B. Williams, of Richmond; Mr. W. H. Sands and Mr. W. Waller Morton, of Richmond.

## Primary Matter.

But there will be more than the mere election of delegates, alternates and electors at the Roanoke convention. Judge R. T. W. Duke, of Charlottesville; Hon. John Whitehead, of Norfolk; Dr. Thomas H. Barnes, of Nansamond; Colonel A. M. Bowman, of Salem, and others have declared their bitter opposition to the present primary system, and have indicated their purpose to join hands with all who will undertake to break it down.

Perhaps the strongest argument that has been advanced in favor of abolishing the present system of nominating Democratic candidates for office in Virginia is that the new method practically does away with county, district and State conventions, thus depriving the party in subsequent campaigns of that inspiring enthusiasm which results from an old-fashioned Democratic rally, where eloquence fires the hearts of the unwary and stimulates the indifferent to press forward to victory at the polls.

Much of the talk to the effect that the system is cumbersome and costly has been based on the fact that the party is alleged by the other side, have steadily and persistently sought to load it with handicaps and to render it unpopular with the people at large.

## Movement for Reform.

Time was when the party convention, especially among Southern people, was almost a test of Democratic faith, but the system finally began to be abused. Leaders grew intolerant and dogmatic in their management of affairs, and the system became a breeder and promoter of bosses whose arrogance threatened to weaken, if not destroy the party in many important States. Then the primary reform started and swept over the country. Enemies of the primary have prevented it from being perfected in Virginia, and therefore, according to its friends, it has the reputation of being the high tide of its popularity in this section.

The present party law allows conventions under certain conditions. There is a local option feature as to the method of nominating candidates for the Legislature, county offices and Congress, and in many of these local districts conventions are still held. State conventions, however, can be held but once in four years, and then only for the purpose of preparing for national conventions.

## Will Save the Plan.

Judging from the present outlook, the primary will not be abolished at the Roanoke convention, for if Bowman and Whitehead and Duke and Barnes come forward to assail it they will be met by Hay and Glass and Byrd and Flood, and perhaps also by Daniel and Swanson, who will, according to indications, have behind them the overwhelming sentiment in favor of maintaining the system.

Of course, there is going to be a good deal of gubernatorial talk and work at the convention. The gathering will be in Mr. Stuart's country, and it would be strange if the partisans of the Southwest candidate did not make use of it. They will almost certainly call upon him for a speech if he shows his face in the big theatre where the convention will meet, and he will very likely be there. So will Judge Mann and Mr. Tucker, and, of course, they, too, will be asked to make addresses.

The convention will in all probability complete its work in one day, but the session may possibly last longer. Indications are that a very large proportion of the 802 delegates and many of the alternates will attend.

AFRICA TURNING  
TO CHRISTIANITY,  
MISSIONARY SAYS

28 Royal Princes in School at Luebo--Cannibalism and Polygamy Still Prevalent.

The Rev. Motte Martin, an African traveler, explorer and missionary, spoke last night in the Second Presbyterian Church before an audience which filled the large building, and which showed the deepest interest in the story of work in Africa. The young minister is a graduate of Union Theological Seminary, and at one time supplied the Presbyterian Church in Barton Heights. His tours in the Congo region of Central Africa during the past half dozen years have given him a world-wide reputation as an explorer of the Dark Continent, while his missionary labors have been pronounced by Secretary Reavis, of the board of missions, to be unparalleled in modern church annals.

Much of Mr. Martin's work has been done in company with the Rev. Shepherd, a Staunton, Va., negro, who, as a pioneer missionary and explorer in Africa, has become a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, and ranks with the great explorers of Stanley in the opening of Central Africa.

## A Question Answered.

Before going as a missionary Mr. Martin said he had been often asked why nations who are living contentedly and satisfied with present conditions should be intruded upon with another moral code and manner of life. After five years of hand-to-hand experience he came back to this country to answer that question. Two points were brought out in striking emphasis--the need of the people and their receptiveness to Christianity. Under the first point Mr. Martin told of the immense death rate among little children, and the utter absence among the people of a knowledge of how to care for children. Describing conditions in the section in which he is settled, he said that the Congo country among the Bakuba people, he said these people are entirely unlike the Sudanese negroes, from whom the American negro is an extraction.

The Bakubas have thin lips and aquiline noses, and a scissure have claimed to be of Mongolian descent. Referring to conditions about him, the speaker said that polygamy was prevalent among all classes, the people of a neighboring nation having met in solemn assembly and limited their King to 3,333 wives, in being all the country was able to support.

"Cannibalism is also generally practiced by many of the tribes," Mr. Martin continued. "I do not think this cannibalism is on account of any love of human flesh; it is a sort of fetishism; an act of worship. In many cases it is believed that the souls of the dead enter the bodies of the living, and the spirit of the person eaten enters into the eater, so that when a warrior conquers his adversary after a struggle, he eats his body in order to take into himself the strength and spirit of his enemy. While not exactly believing in the transmigration of souls, they believe that the spirit of a sleeping person wanders about, and may for a time lodge in another or in some animal.

## Turning to Christianity.

All through Central Africa the people have lost faith in their idols and are turning to Christianity, according to Mr. Martin, who told of messages which had come from towns several hundred miles away asking for teachers, which the workers had been unable to supply. He described a journey of some months' duration with twenty-five volunteer white helpers, who walked twenty-five or thirty miles a day from village to village, preaching three times each day to hundreds and even thousands, the people flocking out at the first call. Part of this journey took them through an inner province which for fifteen years has been in successful revolt against the rule of King Leopold, of Belgium. The warriors of this nation are now armed with Mauser rifles and continue to rebel against the Belgian forces.

"Since the Congo mission has been established at Luebo, over 6,000 persons have been baptized, nearly all of whom have remained faithful, forsaken polygamy, and thrown away their idols," said Mr. Martin. "Most of these went through a year or more of probation, with daily teaching, before they were baptized. Seventy native helpers are now aiding the work of the foreigners in tours through surrounding provinces. Twenty-eight kings who rule over great nations in Central Africa have sent their sons to our school in Luebo to be educated and trained in Christianity, and to-day these twenty-eight young princes, who will one day be the rulers of an uncounted multitude of people, are living in the school building at our mission at Luebo."

Mr. Martin spoke in the highest terms of the staying qualities of the converts; telling of the martyrdom in Uganda, a persecution more bitter and more savage than any since the days of Nero. It is in the Bakuba province, around Luebo, that the rubber persecution has been most severe, and Mr. Martin told of seeing men and women whose arms and feet had been cut off by the rubber gatherers for failure to pay their tax to the Belgian government.